

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /078 W

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R 310620Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6026

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

UNCLAS SYDNEY 0196

1. POWER STRIKE FINALLY ENDS TODAY AFTER TWO WEEKS OF INTENSE PRESSURE BY LABOR COUNCIL AND AUTHORIZED UNION LEADERSHIP. FACE SAVING FORMULA PROVIDED BY LABOR COUNCIL WAS THAT IN RETURN FOR END OF STRIKE, THE UNION'S DEMANDS WOULD BE HEARD IN STATE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 4. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO ASSURANCE THAT THE DEMANDS WILL BE GRANTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY SOME GESTURE WILL BE MADE.

2. THE BACK-TO-WORK VOTE CAME AT THE LAST MOMENT AFTER ON-THE-JOB MEETINGS OF THE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION WORKERS HAD HEAVILY VOTED TO CONTINUE STRIKE. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THIS REFUSAL WOULD BE RATIFIED BY A MASS MEETING LATER IN THE DAY, BUT APPARENTLY BEHIND-THE-SCENES PRESSURE FROM THE LABOR COUNCIL, WHICH REFUSED TO SEND AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEETING, BROUGHT ABOUT A REVERSAL. THE MASS MEETING WAS UNRULY INVOLVING HARASSMENT OF DISSIDENTS AND MANHANDLING OF PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS.

3. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE ULTIMATE RESULT WILL BE TO RE-ESTABLISH DISCIPLINE BY RESPONSIBLE LABOR UNION ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT THE LABOR COUNCIL TOOK A FORTHRIGHT ATTITUDE IN OPPOSING THIS WILDCAT STRIKE IN WHICH 65 LEFT-WING ACTIVISTS LED BY SEVEN OR EIGHT MEMBERS

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OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA MANIPULATED 4,000

UNIONISTS AND HELD THE WHOLE STATE'S ECONOMY AS RANSOM.
HANNAH

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Message Attributes

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